

X.—*A Contribution to the Ornithology of the Island of Texel.* By Lieut. CLAUD B. TICEHURST, R.A.M.C., M.A., M.B.O.U.

As a good many Englishmen have at one time or another visited the Island of Texel during the nesting-season, to see the Avocets, Black-tailed Godwits, and other birds which breed there, I thought it might be of interest to publish the notes of two expeditions to the island made by Mr. Bonhote and myself during the autumn migration in 1906 and 1908. To our notes I have added records made during the nesting-season by various authors in order to make the list of species as complete as possible, though inability to hunt up all records precludes this paper from being anything like complete. Our first visit lasted from 24 August to 3 September, 1906, and the second from 15 September to 10 October, 1908, Mr. Bonhote being alone part of the time. He has already dealt with the results of our observations solely from the point of view of migration*.

The following papers are alluded to:—

1. J. P. Thijsse's List of Breeding Species reprinted in *Norf. and Norw. Trans.* v. pp. 172-4: abbreviated as (Th.). The date of this list is prior to
2. "Eien Besuch bei den Brutvögeln der holländischen Nordseeinseln," by O. Leege-Juist: *Ornith. Monatsb.* xxxii. p. 357, &c.: abbreviated as (L.J.). The date of this visit was 1906.
3. A short Account of a Spring Visit, which appeared in the 'Field,' 23 October, 1909: by Mr. Davies.
4. A Visit to a Dutch Sanctuary, with Notes on the Bird-Life of Texel Island, by M. Vaughan, M.A., M.B.O.U., *Norf. and Norw. Trans.* x. pp. 107-125: abbreviated as (V.).

In addition to these papers, Messrs. Charles Pearson and H. L. Popham have given me a few notes on the birds

* 'Ornis,' 1910.

seen during a spring visit to the island over ten years ago. It is uncertain how much of Leege-Juist's material on Texel birds was from first-hand knowledge and how much gathered from other sources. Mr. Daalder, the schoolmaster at Oosterend, supplied me with some information, which, though mainly correct, I think, I cannot vouch for. Referred to as (D.).

The Island of Texel is the largest and most westerly of the chain of Dutch Friesian Islands lying off the north coast of Holland. The other islands going eastward are Vlieland, Terschelling, Ameland, Schiermonnikoog, and Rottum, and to the east of the last lie the German chain of islets—Borkum, Juist, Norderney, &c. On the North Sea side of Texel the island is bounded by undulating sand-dunes, in many places a mile wide, in the hollows of which are small reed-girt lakes and shallower pools in various stages of evaporation. The dunes are covered with marram and other grasses, while brambles, sea-buckthorn, &c., occur in patches.

Bird-life here is scarce as regards the smaller species, and since the difference between high- and low-water mark is comparatively small and the foreshore is plain sand, the locality is not suited to the requirements of Waders. On the Zuyder Zee side of the island the main sea-wall keeps the sea out from the polders and grass-land. Between Oosterend and De Cocksdorp is the vast sand-flat called the Vlake van Kerken, with a good many muddy channels, while between the sand and the sea-wall is a fair-sized strip of "puzzle-weed" (sea-grass, sea-daisy, sea-lavender, &c.). With a strong S.W. wind the tide here comes right up to the sea-wall, at other times it only comes up the channels, the main high-water mark being a long way out on the sands; indeed, at times anyone might stand on the sands and hardly be able to discern where high-water mark is. At low-water mark merely a channel is left between Texel and Vlieland, which is visible on the horizon though only about five or six miles distant. It is on these sand-flats that masses of sea-birds of various kinds collect during the autumnal passage, to whose

migrations we paid special attention. Of the interior of the island I can say but little, as I did not traverse it very much. The greater part of it appeared to be grass and agricultural land, intersected with innumerable dykes, and here and there a few plantations; the polders or more recently reclaimed land I need not describe, as they are well known.

A good many of the resident species of birds did not come under observation, as we very seldom, if ever, visited suitable localities for them, while some of the summer visitors had apparently departed before our visit.

If every record is accepted, the number of species which breed on Texel is 101. Of these, four—the Cormorant, White Stork, Spoonbill, and Common Gull—undoubtedly used to breed, but have now gone; while ten—the Marsh-Tit, Goldfinch, Great Grey Shrike, Stone Curlew, Little Owl, Barn Owl, Goshawk, Pochard, Widgeon, and Great Black-backed Gull—rest on Thijssse's authority only. Possibly some are included erroneously and others were but single instances (in which category the Woodchat may also be put), as no one, so far as I am aware, has met with them since. Of one—the Pintail—there is a certain amount of evidence to show that it was introduced. In addition to these, it is probable that three more breed, or have bred—Stock Dove, Nightingale, Stonechat—according to Mr. Vaughan, who also is the sole authority for the occurrence of the Purple Heron and Short-toed Lark.

Concerning one or two other species information does not seem very certain. The total number of birds noted for Texel in this paper is 144, but of course there are many others which I was informed occur on migration and doubtless do so, such as the Shore-Lark, Snow-Bunting, Bluethroat, Peregrine, &c.

SONG-THRUSH.

Several seen in August 1906 in the old duck-decoy at Oosterend and an odd bird in the village. First arrivals on the sea-wall at the north end on 25 and 26 September,

followed by many more, 5-9 October, 1908. Breeds (Th.), but not common (L.J. & D.). Absent from the other islands as a breeding species (L.J.).

REDWING.

First arrivals on 3 and 4 October, followed by many more on 5-10, 1908.

FIELDFARE.

"Seen on spring migration" (V.).

BLACKBIRD.

Arrived at much the same time as the Song-Thrush; increased in numbers on 10 October, 1908; not seen in 1906. "Rare as a breeding species, common as a migrant" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.), "but not common; single pairs breed on Ameland also" (L.J.).

RING-OUZEL.

Two examples on the northern sea-wall on 24 September, another on the 26th, 1908; several in the Thrush migration early in October.

WHEATEAR.

A few still to be seen along the banks and roadsides at the end of August 1906, but no migratory movement noted. In September 1908 notably increased numbers were recorded for the 22nd and 24th, which quickly passed on, and a few were seen to arrive from the north-east over the water on the 25th. "Breeds commonly" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Also on all the other islands" (L.J.). Those we met with were of the common race.

STONECHAT.

"Probably breeds" (V.).

WHINCHAT.

Not uncommon in August 1906 in the dunes in Slufterbollen, a few also in the cultivation. "Breeds fairly commonly on Texel and the other islands" (L.J.).

REDSTART.

Odd birds noted from 20-24 September, on which date there was a distinct increase, after which only single birds were seen up to 1 October and one on the 8th. "Rare as a breeding species, common as a migrant" (D.). "Single pairs breed" (L.J.).

ROBIN.

One 28 September, noted again 8 and 9 October. "Rare as a breeding species, common as a migrant" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Single pairs breed" (L.J.).

NIGHTINGALE.

"Occurs; probably bred in 1913" (V.).

COMMON WHITETHROAT.

Common in August in the dunes and in general where there are low bushes; family party seen on 26 August. On 20 September I saw one crouching under some drift-weed on the shore at the north-east end; a very tired bird. "Common as a breeding species" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Also on all the islands except Rottum" (L.J.).

LESSER WHITETHROAT.

"Common as a breeding species" (D.). "Only single pairs on Texel. Heard on Vlieland and a nest found on Terschelling" (L.J.).

BLACKCAP.

One in the "puzzle-weed" at the north end 19 September; very tired. "Fairly common in the gardens and park at Den Burg; absent from the other islands" (L.J.). "Breeds" (Th.).

GARDEN-WARBLER.

"Common as a breeding species" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Everywhere in gardens and plantations; also breeds on Terschelling" (L.J.).

GOLDCREST.

On the morning of 25 September, during fog, the gardens at Oosterend were full of Goldcrests and Blue Tits, which later in the day vanished. New arrivals were noted on 6 and 7 October. "Has been erroneously recorded as breeding on Texel" (L.J.).

WILLOW-WREN.

Several, including a family party, seen in the sand-dunes on 26 August; a Warbler, perhaps of this species, seen to arrive—flying low over the water—on 24 September from the north-east, and odd birds were noted on the 25th and 27th. "Rare as a breeding species, common as a migrant" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Not common, breeding on Texel; also seen on Schiermonnikoog" (L.J.).

CHIFFCHAFF.

"Breeds" (Th.). "Status as last" (D. & L.J.). "Also breeds on Schiermonnikoog" (L.J.).

ICTERINE WARBLER.

Said to breed in the old decoy, where I saw a disused nest in 1906. All had gone by 31 August. "Generally distributed; many in the disused decoy" (V.). "Common as a breeding species" (D. & L.J.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Also breeds on all the other islands" (L.J.).

REED-WARBLER.

One seen in a reed-bed by the sea-wall at the end of August. "Common as a breeding species" (D. & L.J.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Scarce on Schiermonnikoog" (L.J.).

GREAT REED-WARBLER.

"Single pairs breed in reed-beds of last year's growth on Texel only" (L.J.). "Breeds" (Th.).

MARSH-WARBLER.

Both these species are said by Daalder to be fairly common and to breed in the old decoy; they did not come under notice when we visited the place on 31 August, and

probably had already migrated. Vaughan remarks that the former was said to occur, but he could not obtain any evidence of it, while the latter bred in 1914. Leege-Juist records the Marsh-Warbler on Texel only; fairly common at Waalenburg and in the wetter part of the dunes at the north end.

SEDGE-WARBLER.

“Rare as a breeding species, common on migration” (D.). “Single pairs breed on Texel; not recorded from the other islands” (L.J.).

GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER.

“Bred in 1913” (V.). Heard near the dunes in 1909 by Mr. Davies. “Breeds on Juist, one of the German North Sea islands” (L.J.).

HEDGE-SPARROW.

“Breeds” (Th.), “but rather rare” (D.). “Single pairs breed in the park at Den Burg, absent from the other islands” (L.J.).

GREAT TIT.

Heard once in August in Oostørend. “Not common as a breeding species, commoner as a migrant” (D.). “Breeds” (Th.). “Not common; absent from the other islands” (L.J.).

BLUE TIT.

Odd birds on several occasions in August in the gardens at Oosterend; an increase of migrants (with Golderests) noted on 24 September. “Status as last” (D. & L.J.). “Breeds” (Th.).

MARSH-TIT.

“Breeds” (Th.).

WREN.

One in the old duck-decoy on 31 August. “Common as a breeding species” (D.). “Breeds” (Th.). “Fairly common also on Terschelling and Schiermonnikoog” (L.J.).

TREE-CREEPER.

"Single pairs breed regularly on Texel in the Park"
(L.J.).

WHITE WAGTAIL.

Fairly common up to the end of August, with increase of migratory birds up to 1 September; odd birds on several days, 19 September to 5 October, 1908. "Common as a breeding species and on migration" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Common on all the islands; the Pied Wagtail bred on Juist in 1904" (L.J.).

BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL.

Seemed fairly common at the end of August. Distinct migration on 1 September. In 1908 single birds noted on 15 and 30 September. "Status as last" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Very common on all the islands" (L.J.).

TREE-PIPIT.

One on 27 September, 1908. "Rarely breeds" (D. & L.J.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Also breeds on Terschelling and Ameland" (L.J.).

MEADOW-PIPIT.

Common, and became more numerous towards the end of August. On 25 September I saw some arriving from the north-east across the water and flying low; they settled at once and began to feed; the species came under observation each day with notable increases in numbers, which soon passed, on 22 September and 5 October. "Common as a breeding species and on migration" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Very common on all the islands" (L.J.).

ROCK-PIPIT.

Evidently does not breed on the island, as we saw none in August. The first migrants appeared on 29 September, with additions to their numbers on 6 and 10 October. "The Water-Pipit is recorded as having bred on Borkum by Prof. Schneider; probably an error for this species" (L.J.).

TAWNY PIPIT.

Said by Daalder to breed in the dunes at Slufterbollen, though scarce, where, however, on 26 August we failed to see any. "Breeds" (Th.). "Seldom breeds, though common on the mainland dunes" (L.J.).

RED-BACKED SHRIKE.

A single young bird seen at the end of August. "Not common as breeding species" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Regularly in single pairs; also breeds on Terschelling and Ameland" (L.J.).

GREAT GREY SHRIKE.

"Breeds" (Th.).

WOODCHAT-SHRIKE.

"Bred in June 1900 on Texel. Baron Snouckaert von Schauberg received two eggs from there" (L.J.).

GOLDEN ORIOLE.

"Seldom breeds" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Nested in a wood near the haven, as recorded by R. Fortune" (V.). "A pair regularly nest in the Park at Den Burg; formerly two pairs" (L.J.).

WAXWING.

This bird is well known on the island, and is called the "Post-vogel" as its occurrence is thought to herald disease. Each little spinny on the island is let for snaring birds (Thrushes &c.), and this snaring is done in a peculiar way. A triangle is made of a thin willow branch, and to each side of this are affixed horse-hair snares, so that they overlap in the centre of the triangle; at the middle of the base of the triangle is affixed a bunch of rowan berries (which are harvested for this purpose). The triangle is then hung up on a prominent bough of a tree. Each spinny may contain about fifty such triangles, which must not be less than three feet from the ground nor set before 1 October. Indeed, it would not be of much use to set them

earlier, as the migratory Thrushes, Blackbirds, Fieldfares, &c., do not put in an appearance before that date. When Waxwings come they are also constantly caught.

PIED FLYCATCHER.

One on migration 1 September, one seen 25 September. "One male seen May 1914" (V.).

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER.

One seen 31 August, one on 27 September. "Not common as a breeding species" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Fairly common on Texel; also breeds on Terschelling, Ameland, and Schiermonnikoog" (L.J.).

SWALLOW.

Was still common up to the end of August. Noted on most days in September in small numbers. On 26 September it was passing south along the sea-wall all day; last noted on 3 October. "Common as a breeding species and on migration" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Very common; also breeds on all the other islands" (L.J.).

HOUSE-MARTIN.

Seen nearly every day in the village, but in no great numbers, up to the end of August 1906. Single passing migrants noted on 26 and 27 September were alone observed in 1908. "Breeds commonly" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Less common than the Swallow on Texel; also breeds on Terschelling, Ameland, and Schiermonnikoog" (L.J.).

SAND-MARTIN.

A few seen on several occasions. No colonies met with and likely breeding-places few; possibly the birds may use a suitable artificial bank; one near the old decoy was said to be utilized by them. "Common in some places and in some years" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Several small colonies at the north and absent from the other islands" (L.J.). Davies records a large colony near De Cocksdorp in a low turf-wall.

GREENFINCH.

Two near the village in August. "Not common as a breeding species" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Isolated pairs in gardens in Texel only" (L.J.).

HOUSE-SPARROW.

Common in August and September; at the beginning of October there seemed to be increased numbers. "Common breeding species" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Also breeds on all the other islands" (L.J.).

TREE-SPARROW.

One seen near the village in August. "Common breeding species" (D.). "Not common; also a few pairs on Schiermonnikoog" (L.J.).

CHAFFINCH.

Not noted in August, when only one spinnny was visited. At the end of September we saw fair numbers each time we visited the spinnies, and there seemed to be an influx on 27 September and again on 6 and 9 October. "Common as a migrant" (D.). "A few pairs nest in the bushes on the dunes; also single pairs on Schiermonnikoog in the park" (L.J.).

BRAMBLING.

First seen on 27 September among a party of immigrant Chaffinches. Odd birds seen at the beginning of October with an increase on the 9th.

GOLDFINCH.

"Breeds" (Th.). "Has bred on Borkum, one of the German islets" (L.J.),

LINNET.

Fairly common in flocks in August; in September and October this species was always present; an increase noted on 20 September; on 23rd flocks were passing south-east along the coast till 10 A.M., after which time no movement was seen. Further temporary increases in numbers were noted on 29 September and 10 October. "Common breeding

species" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Common on all the islands" (L.J.).

REED-BUNTING.

One or two seen on the dunes and fields near Slufterbollen in August; it did not seem at all common, but nestlings were noted: we saw none in September (possibly they had departed), and three seen on 4 October were doubtless migrants. "Common breeding species" (D.). "Fairly common on the dunes of Texel, where reeds and brambles grow together" (L.J.).

YELLOW BUNTING.

"Breeds" (Th.). "Single pairs breed at the foot of the dunes on Texel" (L.J.).

STARLING.

By far the commonest Passerine bird noted in August; very common in the village and surrounding fields and farms and even out on the puzzle-weed of the shore, miles from any house. Noted each day in September and October, with temporary accessions to the numbers on 20-22 September and 5 and 10 October. "Very common breeding species and migrant" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Breeds numerously on all the islands" (L.J.).

MAGPIE.

One or two in the village in August; noted on several days in September, but not in any numbers. Our visits, however, to suitable places were not frequent. "Common as a breeding species" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Single pairs breed in Texel in all the village parks, also in bushes on the dunes, where a nest was found in a white-thorn three feet high" (L.J.).

JACKDAW.

A migrant, on 9 October, was the only individual met with. "Common on migration" (D.). "Single pairs breed in the towers every year on Texel; absent from the other islands" (L.J.).

HOODED CROW.

First noted on 6 October, with an increase on the 9th.

CARRION-CROW.

"Common breeding species" (D.). Thijsse mentions a nest very low down in a white-thorn on the dunes. Leege-Juist records it as not very common on Texel, nesting in the decoys and on bushes in the dunes; also in the decoys at Terschelling and Vlieland, where a nest was found on a horizontal plank of a wind screen, five feet from the ground; he considers it commoner on Ameland, where it breeds in high trees; he also records nests on a church tower and on the gable of a church roof there.

ROOK.

One seen on 27 September. "Many small colonies up to ten pairs on Texel only" (L.J.). "Common breeding species" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.).

SKYLARK.

Common on the grass fields, dunes, and "puzzle-weed" on the shore during August. Noted each day in September and October, with an increase on 22 and 24 September, but it appeared to pass on. Some seen arriving from the north-east across the water on the 24th and 25th—the latter a foggy, still day. "Common breeding species and migrant" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Very common on all the islands" (L.J.).

CRESTED LARK.

Said by Daalder to breed, though rarely, in the dunes at Slufterbollen, where, however, we did not meet with it on 31 August. "Breeds; nest built on roof of a barn" (Th.). "Single pairs nest in the dunes" (L.J.). "Doubtful as a breeding species" (V.).

SHORT-TOED LARK.

"One pair seen April 1914" (V.).

SWIFT.

“Rare breeding species” (D.). “Breeds” (Th.). Apparently all gone by 24 August, for we saw none. “Single pairs breed in the church tower at Oosterend; absent from the other islands” (L.J.).

KINGFISHER.

Several seen in August; two on the shore on the 29th. “Rare breeding species” (D.). Daalder found a nest in 1902 and saw one or two pairs elsewhere. “Commoner on migration” (L.J.).

CUCKOO.

Not uncommon in August; a distinct immigration of young birds on 1 September, when I saw six or seven in the course of a short walk. “Not common as a breeding species” (D.). “Breeds” (Th.). “Frequently breeds on all the islands” (L.J.).

SHORT-EARED OWL.

“Not uncommonly breeds” (D.). “Breeds on the sand-dunes” (V.). “Breeds yearly on the dunes; has also bred on Vlieland and Schiermonnikoog” (L.J.).

LITTLE OWL.

“Rarely breeds” (D.). “Doubtful” (V.). “Has repeatedly bred on Nordeneij, one of the German group of islands” (L.J.).

BARN-OWL.

“Breeds” (Th.).

MARSH-HARRIER.

Several seen on the dunes at Slufterbollen, including a family party on 26 August; they were quartering the ground for young toads and frogs, which were numerous and of which we found several remains, the heads, legs, and backbones being left. “Nests not uncommonly in the small lakes in the dunes” (D.). “Probably disappeared with the drainage of the Den Horn marshes” (V.). “Single pairs nest regularly on the dunes” (L.J.).

MONTAGU'S HARRIER.

"Breeds on the sand-dunes" (V.). "Single pairs breed on the dunes on Terschelling and Ameland, also on Schiermonnikoog" (L.J.).

BUZZARD sp.?

Two seen circling high overhead on 22 September, migrating.

GOSHAWK.

"Nest in an old rook's nest in a birch-tree of no great height" (Th.). "Very doubtful" (V.).

KESTREL.

Not uncommon, seen hawking over the marshes and fields in August, and stooping at a Dunlin on the shore. Noted on many days in September and October, but not evidently migrating except on 25 September, when I think some arrived. "Common as a breeding species" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Nests in old crows' nests, water-mills, and towers" (L.J.).

SPARROW-HAWK.

One seen on 9 October, a migrant.

MERLIN.

Single birds seen 25 and 28 September and 9 October.

CORMORANT.

A large flock always to be seen on a point of sand at the north-east end during August. Noted daily in September and October, often in masses sitting on the sand along the tide's edge; increase in numbers on 29th, but numbers diminished on 8 and 10 October. "A colony nesting in trees in company with herons at one of the decoys" (D.). "Nests in trees round the decoys" (Th.). "Up to 1904 six pairs bred in a decoy at Oudeschild; formerly also in some copses. Now exterminated" (L.J.).

WHITE STORK.

Not met with. Daalder informed us it seldom occurs as a migrant, but occasionally a pair or two have nested.

“Breeds” (Th.). “Does not breed on the island now, seldom, if ever, occurs” (V.). “Formerly eight or ten nests; in 1905 only one, at Hoorn on a barn” (L.J.).

BLACK STORK.

An adult met with on 31 August on the shore. Mr. Trapp, a native who collects for the Dutch museums, told us that the bird had only been met with a few times on the island.

SPOONBILL.

On 25 August, a very windy day, flocks of Spoonbills were continually flying up and down the tide-mark at the north-east end, otherwise they spent the day well out on the sand-bank, looking like a white cloud in the distance. Over eighty were counted on 15 September and fifty on the 19th, after which numbers fell off rapidly, and the last was seen on the 26th, except for an odd bird on 7 October. Daalder told me they were common on migration, and that occasionally a pair or two bred in the lakes of the sand-dunes; but that the nearest colony was at Zwanewater, near Calantsoog, south of the Helder. “Formerly bred in numbers before the drainage of their haunts in the southern dunes; in 1905 one nest at Oudeschild in a reed-bed” (L.J.). “Has not bred since the draining of the marshes near Den Horn; stray birds seen especially in May and June” (V.).

HERON.

Common in August, often coming out from the marshes to the shore at dusk; noted each day in September and October, with increased numbers on 7 and 8 October. “Nests in the trees at one of the decoys” (D.). “Breeds” (Th.). “Breeds, but not numerous, in trees and reeds” (L.J.).

PURPLE HERON.

“Rare; does not breed” (V.).

GREY GEESE.

Noted on 15 September, and on most days, on or flying over the shore, also seen on a small lake in the dunes. The numbers gradually increased, notable additions being on

21 and 29 September, 2 and 10 October. We were never close enough to determine the species, except that they did not appear to be White-fronted. They have a way of getting geese in winter on the island by going out with strong headlights; the geese are said to be dazzled by them, and admit of a near enough approach for a shot. Grey Lag recorded for "April 1914" (V.).

BRENT GOOSE.

First appeared on 1 October, with an increase on the 10th. Said to be common in winter. "Assembles in big flocks on coast before migration" (V.).

SHELDUCK.

Family party seen on several occasions in August. Noted nearly every day in September and October. Apparently a sedentary species. "Breeds not uncommonly in rabbit-holes on the dunes at De Cocksdoorp" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Sometimes breeds also in the sheep-folds or under straw or hay-stacks" (L.J.).

MALLARD.

Very common in the polders and on the lakes at Slufterbollen. Apparently the home-bred stock frequently interbreeds with farmyard ducks and white call-ducks. On one lake we put up four separate masses of fowl, mostly Mallards; each flock rose with a roar of wings and momentarily appeared to darken the sky. A not uncommon variety was one in which the chestnut breast-band of the male was replaced by grey vermiculated feathers, the black under tail-coverts also being marked with grey vermiculations. I noted a similar bird in the Rotterdam Zoological Gardens, which Herr Büttikofer informed me was the produce of *boschas* × *domesticus* cross. I have seen similar birds in a farmyard in Kent, and once examined an individual shot near Yarmouth*.

There are, I believe, three decoys worked on Texel, but we only visited an old disused one in a small wood, the traces

* Erroneously recorded as a hybrid by Mr. Patterson in the 'Zoologist,' 1916.

of four pipes still being visible, though quite choked with reeds. In order to start a decoy, it is necessary first to get sanction and then a licence, which is renewable every year : if this is allowed to lapse, it apparently cannot be renewed again. "Breeds commonly" (D.). "Common on all the islands" (L.J.). "Breeds" (Th.).

SHOVELER.

Several seen amongst the other ducks on two lakes in the dunes at Slufterbollen 26 August. Also noted 28 August and 3 October, but as this species does not frequent the shore, it did not come much under our notice. "Breeds commonly" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Noted, three nests found" (Davies). "Common, but no records from the other islands" (L.J.).

PINTAIL.

A flock seen on the saltings 21 September and a single bird on the 26th. Pintail's nests have been found three times by Daalder, two of them in 1905 (as he informed me) ; he said that they were common in winter and are taken in the decoys. But it must be remembered that on the decoys at Terschelling and Ameland, neighbouring islands, half-tame decoy Pintails are kept and frequently breed (L.J.), and the same may be the case on Texel. "Breeds" (Th.).

TEAL.

Some were seen on a lake at Slufterbollen on 26 August and several lots on the shore on 25 August. Not noted in September till the 21st ; numbers greatly increased on the 25th, after which the bird was noted each day. Daalder says that it does not breed on the island, but is very common in winter, hence its Texel name of "Wintertaling," as opposed to the Garganey "Zomertaling." On the other Friesian islands odd pairs are recorded as breeding on Ameland, Borkum, and Juist. "Breeds" (Th.). "Rather scarce" (V.).

GARGANEY.

Flocks noted in the Polder het Noorden at various times in August, also on a lake at Slufterbollen. Apparently

gone by 15 September. Recorded as breeding commonly by Daalder, not mentioned in Thijsse's list. "Seen in the breeding season" (Davies). Nest found in 1905 by Mr. Charles Pearson. "Fairly common; has also bred on Terschelling" (L.J.).

WIDGEON.

Some noted at Slufterbollen on 26 August. Seen on the shore on most days in August, September, and October; very large increase in numbers together with Teal on 25 September. "Common migrant" (D.). "Breeds" (Th.). I seem to recollect being told that a nest had once been found.

POCHARD.

"Breeds" (Th.).

SCAUP.

One observed 29 September. "A pair were seen in June 1906 by Dr. Van Oort, but it was not proved that they were breeding" (L.J.).

[EIDER.

So far as I know unrecorded for Texel, but three nests were found on Vlieland, the next island, by Leege-Juist in 1906—the first breeding record for Holland.]

MERGANSEER.

Odd birds noted on 28 and 29 September and 5 October; increase in numbers on 10 October.

WOOD-PIGEON.

Numerous in August in the disused decoy, where the trees were full of old nests. One pair at least had bred on the ground. A few pairs breed in the trees in the village. Odd birds noted in September, but as suitable places were rarely visited, this species did not come under observation much, and there was no evidence of any migratory movement. "Breeds" (Th.). "Breeds in all the spinnies, including the decoy" (L.J.).

STOCK-DOVE.

According to Leege-Juist, this has been erroneously recorded as a breeding species on Texel. Baron Snouckaert van Schauburg says it breeds in rabbit-holes in the dunes on the Dutch mainland, but not on Texel. "Probably breeds" (V.). We did not meet with it.

TURTLE-DOVE.

"Breeds in the dwarf woods at the foot of the dunes; not rare" (L.J.). "Breeds" (D. & Th.). We did not meet with it; possibly already gone further south by 25 August.

QUAIL.

"Not common, in the meadows principally near Oosterend" (L.J.). "Breeds" (D. & Th.). "Pheasants have been introduced on Schiermonnikoog, otherwise neither Pheasants nor Partridges occur on the Dutch Friesian Islands" (L.J.).

CORN-CRAKE.

"Breeds numerously in the Polder Eieland, a few at Oosterend" (L.J.). "Breeds" (D. & Th.).

WATER-RAIL.

"Very rare. Daalder found a nest in the second half of May 1906 in a polder north of Oosterend which contained two eggs" (L.J.). One seen 9 October.

MOORHEN.

Odd birds seen in September when suitable places were visited. "Breeds numerously in the undrained reed-beds" (L.J.). "Breeds" (D.).

COOT.

The same remark applies to this species. "Breeds" (Th.).

STONE CURLEW.

Given as a breeding species by Thijsse only. Vaughan thinks that this is a mistake, as there is no suitable ground, but I think that in the dunes, where the winter's flood-water has dried off and has left flat, bare ground, there might be

found suitable places for this species. We did not, however, meet with it.

RINGED PLOVER.

Fairly numerous, but not so common as the Kentish Plover. Small flocks were always to be seen in August on the sands, foreshore, and banks of the ditches in the Polder het Noorden. Noted each day in September and October in varying numbers. On 22 September a flock passed high over the island going south-west. "Nests only rarely, in the polders and on the shore" (L.J.). "Breeds, but common as a migrant" (D.). Pearson saw a pair in Hendrick's Polder on 26 May, 1905, where he supposed they were breeding.

It is somewhat remarkable that this species should be so rare as a breeding species, not only on Texel but on all the West and East Friesian Islands, its place being taken by the Kentish Plover, whereas on the North Friesian Islands exactly the opposite obtains. "Probably also nests on Terschelling" (L.J.).

KENTISH PLOVER.

On 26 August we saw young in the dunes at Slufterbollen hardly able to fly; they were numerous on the shore, preferring the drier sand near the "puzzle-weed"; a large increase in numbers on 1 September, on which day they swarmed, two huge flocks being seen. Odd birds were noted in the dykes of the polders. By 19 September there were very few and these were new arrivals, and the last were seen on 21 September. "Breeds commonly" (D. & L.J.). "Nests found in the Polder het Noorden" (Pearson). "Polder het Noorden, also on dried mud near the dunes; nests lined with broken cockle- and clam-shells and bleached sheep-droppings" (Davies). "Breeds on all the Dutch Friesian Islands" (L.J.).

GOLDEN PLOVER.

Small parties noted on the shore on 27 August, on which day the first arrived, and each day after this others followed. In September and October flocks were seen on the shore

every day, with large accessions to the numbers on 21 September and 10 October. A large flock also noticed in the grass-fields near the dunes on 20 September. The stomach of one contained small gasteropod shells. Does not breed on the island, but some were seen on 26 May, 1905, by Mr. Pearson on Hendrick's Polder.

GREY PLOVER.

Large flocks already on the sands by 25 August and noted every day. Adult birds still in full summer dress seen, generally singly. Observed each day in September and October, but by 19 September the adults appeared to have gone. An increase in numbers on the 21st, and on the 25th we saw large flocks arriving high up from the north-east. Further increase on 28th, after which the numbers fell off considerably, but there were further arrivals on 10 October. Small crabs noted as food of this species. "A few odd birds in nuptial plumage during the breeding season" (V.).

LAPWING.

Very common everywhere inside the sea-walls. Noted each day in August and September, the numbers increasing in October. The taking of Lapwings' eggs forms one of the industries of the island. Both the Dominion land and the private land is let each year, the former by public auction, for the purpose of the egg harvest. Each strip of land costs 20 to 30 guilders in rent according as to whether it is a good place or not. The season lasts from the first laying, about 23 March, till 1 May, after which no eggs are allowed to be taken. As a consequence of this arrangement, the Lapwing is increasing, since from the later sittings a larger percentage of young are reared, doubtless owing to the less inclement weather. The first dozen or so eggs are always sent to the Royal Household of Holland and fetch $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 guilders each. The price rapidly drops, however, to 1, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ guilder, and the average price, taking the season through, is 12 cents each. About 5000 guilders are received in Texel annually for Plovers' eggs, Friesland being a rival in the industry; from this it would appear that about

60,000 eggs are exported every year, as well as those of the Redshank and Black-headed Gull. "Breeds on all the Dutch Friesian islands" (L.J.). "Breeds" (all authors).

TURNSTONE.

Fairly numerous on the shore in August, occasionally noticed on the dykes in the polders. No very large flocks seen, and all appeared to consist of young birds. I saw one flying along with a live cockle attached to one of its toes; it had trodden on the cockle when the latter was open and was thus trapped. Some noted in September till the 21st, when numbers diminished; a few left on the 25th and 28th, after which only a single bird on 5 October was seen. "Noted on spring migration" (V.). "Common on migration" (D.).

OYSTERCATCHER.

Two pairs on 27 August still had young unable to fly. Perhaps the commonest wader on the shore in August and September; we might almost say, without fear of exaggeration, that there were "miles of Oystercatchers!" Towards the end of September and beginning of October the numbers decreased gradually. Besides frequenting the sands and cockle-beds, this species was frequently to be seen in August in the fields and on manure-mounds near farms. "Very common, breeds everywhere" (L.J. & D.). "Breeds" (Th.). "Nests in grassland, polders, and dried mud of shallow meres" (Davies & Pearson). "Breeds on all the Dutch Friesian islands" (L.J.).

AVOCET.

Fair numbers still on the Polder het Noorden at the end of August; twenty in a flock there on the 28th. Mr. Trapp showed us a nest, which he informed us had contained five eggs. Noted on 15, 16, and 17 September; a few only, after which none were seen, save a single bird on 4 October. "The main colony of Avocets breeds between Oosterend and De Cocksdoorp, but there is a small colony at the south end near Oudeschild and also on Vlieland" (L.J.). "Breeds" (all authors).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE.

One in the Polder het Noorden 28 August ; Mr. Trapp informed us he had only met with this species once before. This bird had probably been driven in by the very strong south-west wind on the 25th-27th. Davies records seeing a Phalarope in spring in a pool at the south end of the island, but does not say of which species ('Field,' 23 October, 1909).

SNIPE.

Odd birds seen whenever we visited likely spots, such as swampy dykes in the polders ; no migration noted. "A few seen, apparently not breeding" (V.). "Breeds fairly numerously" (D. & L.J.). "Not known to breed on the other islands" (L.J.).

JACK SNIPE.

First noted 25 September ; but haunts were seldom visited. "One or two stragglers seen in the spring" (V.).

DUNLIN.

Enormous flocks on the sands by 25 August, and others seen on the edges of the pools in the polders. Some of them, at least, seemed to be mainly composed of adult birds which were still in breeding-plumage. Very numerous in September ; additions to the numbers on the 19th, 24th, 28th, and 29th, after which the numbers decreased again daily. On the 25th flocks were seen arriving on the island, coming high up from the north-east. "Common ; not known to breed on the island" (V.). "Single pairs breed at the north end" (L.J.). According to Mr. Vaughan, Schinz's Sandpiper, which is the small race of Dunlin, should be deleted from the avifauna of Texel, but Leege-Juist expressly says that this is the form which breeds there ; and, of course, that is what one would expect, since the type-locality is the Island of Rugen in the South Baltic, and British breeding birds also belong to this race. I think, however, the vast majority of migratory Dunlins on Texel belong to the typical form *T. alpina alpina*.

If it were necessary to emphasize the fact that all is not known about even some of our commonest birds, I would cite this species as an example. The fact that we have in England long-billed and short-billed Dunlins (apart from sexual distinction, the female's bill being nearly always longer than the male's) has been known for a great number of years, and has been referred to over and over again; and even supposed differences in habitat have been recorded, one form being called the "shore Dunlin" and the other the "drain Dunlin." As Howard Saunders pointed out (and I have fully confirmed it*), it is the short-billed form which breeds in Great Britain. I have also recorded* the fact that, in my experience, migrants under stress of weather in winter to our shores invariably belong to the long-billed form, as do the vast majority of those which take up their winter quarters with us normally. What, I think, we do not know is whether the short-billed form *winters* with us at all; personally I have never seen a winter specimen of this form, and others have had the same experience; and I suspect that normally it winters to the south of our islands, a suspicion strengthened by the fact that on spring migration these short-billed birds reappear in full summer dress (often not recently acquired either), while the birds which have wintered here still retain, in a great measure, their winter plumage. It is a point, I think, worthy of attention.

LITTLE STINT.

One in the Polder het Noorden on 24 August and two on the sands on the 29th were the only examples noted.

CURLEW SANDPIPER.

Not uncommon on the sands in August; also seen on the muddy margins of the pools in the polders. A flock of forty on the sands on 1 September and several adults in breeding-plumage noted. Not met with on our second visit. I noted that they fed on a species of marine weed, I fancy *Zostera*. This species here, as with us, apparently does not tarry long on its autumnal migration.

* Bull. B. O. C. vol. xxxiii. pp. 98-121.

KNOT.

Fair numbers on the shore in August; a few red adults noted. Very numerous in September, large increase on the 19th. Noted arriving over the island, high up, coming from the north-east on the 25th. By the first few days of October the numbers had largely diminished, but there were further arrivals on the 10th. The stomachs of all those I examined contained shoots of a marine plant, I think sea-samphire. "A few in breeding-plumage, no big flocks" (V.).

SANDERLING.

Two seen on the sandy shore to the west of the island on 20 September were the only specimens which came under observation. Possibly commoner than was apparent, but the tide's edge was not visited every day; indeed, it was sometimes not to be seen.

RUFF.

I think that by 24 August the majority had left; we saw several young birds in the Polder het Noorden on that date, but on the 28th only four, and an odd bird on the shore on the 31st. Not met with in September. "Breeds commonly in all the polders" (all authors). "Also breeds on the other Dutch islands" (L.J.). It is interesting to note that the early date of departure from the breeding-grounds roughly corresponds with the date on which this species may be looked for in England.

COMMON SANDPIPER.

A good many seen in the Polder het Noorden on 24 August, and odd ones on the edge of the shore, whither many came out from the polders to feed at dusk. Single bird on 8 September and six the next day were noted. "Seen in May; possibly breeds" (V.). "Erroneously recorded as a breeding species for the Dutch islands by Schlegel" (L.J.).

WOOD-SANDPIPER.

One or two seen in the dykes of the polders in August.

GREEN SANDPIPER.

As above, and odd birds, probably of this species, seen 25 September and 6 October.

REDSHANK.

Very common everywhere at the end of August in the polders, on the "puzzle-weed" and in the adjoining ditches and channels. Two pairs still had young unable to fly. Noted each day in September, with an increase on the 22nd, but the numbers by the early days of October had much diminished. "Breeds commonly" (all authors). "Breeds on all the Dutch Friesian group" (L.J.).

DUSKY REDSHANK.

Not common, but about half a dozen seen each day at the end of August, always singly. A very distinctive bird, its noticeably longer bill and legs at once attract attention; whilst its double-noted whistle, like that of the Ringed Plover, though louder and clearer, and the absence of the white wing-bar, further help to differentiate it from its commoner relative. One adult in black breeding-dress was seen on 31 August. In September and October odd birds were observed up to 10 October, but no marked migration was noted. Frequented the same sort of places on the shore as the Redshank, but seldom seen on the polders. "Small flock seen April 1914" (V.).

GREENSHANK.

In August it was fairly numerous, generally singly or in twos and threes, but I once saw twelve in a flock. They frequented the ditches of the "puzzle-weed," muddy pools, and sides of the channels, where they obtained small fry. Noted in September on most days, with an increase in numbers on the 18th, but by the end of the month and up to 10 October only odd birds remained. "A few birds seen in the spring" (V.).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT.

Mr. Vaughan remarks that "no better station can be found than this island for watching the migration of the

Bar-tailed Godwit" on its spring passage, and I can fully agree with this statement and confirm it as regards the autumn passage. During our stay, 25 August to 1 September, there were huge flocks massed on the shore; and, besides these, no day passed without our noticing huge flocks in W or V formation coming in high from the north-east and passing over to the south-west. The large flocks on the sand kept right out on the edge of the tide, not moving until the water became so deep that they had to fly. Quite a number were still in breeding-plumage. I only saw odd birds inside the sea-wall. The migration of this species is evidently a long drawn-out concern, as on our second visit (15 September to 10 October) Godwits were still very numerous, arrivals and departures being noted on many dates, and so the numbers fluctuated from day to day right up to 10 October. Vaughan saw great numbers on the shore on 5 May, 1913, and in the polders on 27 May, 1914.

The spring passage of this species along our eastern sea-board would appear not to reach as far north as Northumberland, as, whilst there is a marked passage on the Lincolnshire and Norfolk coasts, very few pass along the first-named county's shores at that season. On 25 August we secured two adult Godwits—one was still in the red summer-plumage with hardly a feather changed, the other had nearly finished its moult into the grey winter-plumage. Adult Godwits, like many other waders, doubtless leave their breeding-grounds in the north before commencing the moult, which takes place when they are congregated on such sand-flats as those of Texel. At first sight then it would seem curious that on the same day we should find two individuals in such diverse plumage, but I think the explanation probably is that the bird which had already assumed its winter-plumage had not been north to breed, and so had started to moult earlier. There are several very interesting points connected with the plumage of this species: it has long been known and has been a matter of comment that on spring passage we may see individuals in full red summer-plumage; while others in the same flock have *apparently*

not cast a feather, and are still in the grey attire of winter. One explanation which has been put forward is that these grey birds are "out of condition," though what exactly is meant by that term I do not quite know, but it seems to me to be an explanation based simply upon the fact that they have not assumed summer-plumage! Then, again, why should quite a number of these birds be "out of condition" even though in company with others which are "in condition," with which they have travelled north and very probably wintered, and therefore been subjected to the same conditions? On the other hand, men that have handled such birds tell me that to all outward appearance they are in perfect condition, except that they are still in winter dress.

That these grey birds do not nest in that year is, I think, quite certain, as all those shot in the breeding-grounds, which I have examined, are in full summer-plumage; and it is not a little curious that the grey birds should migrate north at all, as far, at least, as the British and the Dutch coasts. Then, again, there are to be found individuals of some waders—Dunlin, Turnstone, Grey Plover, &c., which summer on our shores and do not breed, and yet have acquired as full a summer dress as those which have gone north to breed. If they, too, are "out of condition," why is it that they have attained breeding-dress?

These are very interesting problems, and might open up many wide discussions—such as reason and stimulus for a breeding-dress, influence of courtship, effect of possible internal secretions of the breeding-organs, &c., into which I cannot now enter, but they only tend to show how much we have yet to learn. Still there is one suggestion I should like to make as a possible explanation, and that is that the birds which have not gone into breeding-dress are those which have failed to find mates, and the birds which have acquired their breeding-dress but do not breed are those which have lost their mates. It may be said that such birds would surely find new mates; and, no doubt, this often happens with the Raven, Peregrine, Starling, and other

species ; but, even so, there is likely to be a residuum left, and it must be remembered that a male and a female are not necessarily a pair when it comes to mating, as has often been proved with ducks.

It has also been suggested that these grey summer birds are birds of a previous year, and that, as they are not going to breed, they retain their winter dress. That they are *not* I have no proof, but I have fully satisfied myself that quite a number of these birds of less than a year old attain as rich a summer dress at their first spring moult as obtains in any adult, for in such birds I have found odd feathers, usually tertials of the juvenile plumage, remaining. On the other hand, some at least of these grey summer birds may be, and probably are, sterile adult birds. These points are of considerable interest, and were fully commented on by Murray Adamson in the seventies and eighties, though they were to him a mystery, as they still are to us at the present day ; and how can it be otherwise, seeing that for the last thirty-seven years it has been illegal to shoot a Godwit after 1 March till August or 1 September, during the very months when specimens, could they be obtained, would do much to clear up the mystery. Such protection is perfectly useless. In spite of rigid protection, the Bar-tailed Godwit (and in the same category I may mention, too, the Sanderling, Knot, Turnstone, &c.) has never bred in Great Britain and never will. It must be remembered that the number of these birds which halt for a few days on our shores during their vernal migration is but a small fraction of the total number of them in the world, and of this small fraction the few which would be shot could make no difference to the welfare of species, or lessen the numbers which would visit us another year ; whilst it deprives of legitimate material for enquiry those who make a study of many of the unsolved problems in such birds, and so hinders progress. Indeed, judging by the earlier writings of the past century, more of such birds used to visit us prior to any protection at all than do so at the present time !

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT.

On 24 August we saw several in the Polder het Noorden, but the majority seemed to have gone; only two birds there on the 28th. I actually saw one feeding close to the road in company with some chickens! None seen in September. This species appears to keep inside the sea-wall, for we did not see it on the shore at any time. "Breeds commonly" (all authors). "Commoner at Waalenburg than in the north polders" (L.J.). Texel is the only island of the Friesian group on which this species breeds.

CURLEW.

Very numerous on the shore in August, numbers increasing almost daily, especially on the 30th and 31st. The adult birds were nearly through the moult into winter-plumage, whilst some of the Bar-tailed Godwits had not shed a feather. Numbers rested on the polders during the day and "flighted" out to the shore at dusk. During September and October this species was met with each day, though in far fewer numbers, there being notable decreases on 19 and 21 September, but there were fresh arrivals again on 10 October. "Noted as common in spring, and a few bred in the sand-hills" (V.). Also noted as breeding by all the other authors. "Single pairs breed on Vlieland and Terschelling" (L.J.).

WHIMBREL.

In August we saw a few each day, but usually in twos or threes, one small flock being observed; no marked migration. Single birds noted on 16 September and 1 October. "Noted as very common on spring migration" (V.).

BLACK TERN.

Not met with. "Colony of about forty pairs breed at Waalenburg" (L.J.); Daalder also gave me similar information, and this is doubtless the colony referred to by Thijsse and Popham (*in litt.*).

SANDWICH TERN.

Numbers seen in August and September up to 2 October and two birds on the 10th. Generally seen passing to and

fro along the tide's edge, but they appear to fish more out at sea than the other Terns. Daalder informed me that in 1906 this species bred, after a lapse of fifty years, on the Polder het Noorden, where I examined the old nests on a promontory of dried mud covered with rough grass. "Breeds also on Rottum and one or two sand-banks in the Dutch Friesian group" (L.J.).

COMMON TERN.

Very numerous along the tide, in the channels and in the polders, where, at the end of August, some nestlings were still unable to fly. I found a young one in that state because of a disease of the growing quills of the flight-feathers, exactly similar to that in Wood-Pigeons. By 16 September all had apparently left, at which time Sandwich Terns were still quite numerous. "Breeds in numbers" (all authors) "as well as on the other Dutch islands" (L.J.).

ARCTIC TERN.

Although particularly searched for during both visits to Texel, I could not satisfy myself that I saw this species. According to Leege-Juist, there were only three records of it on the Dutch coast up to 1896, in which year, however, Snouckaert van Schauburg established the fact that it was nesting on Texel among the Common Terns and that it constantly lays but two eggs. Both Daalder and Trapp assured me that it was common, and that its note was different from that of the Common Tern; however, a bird, whose note was different from that of the adult Common Tern, and which was pointed out to me as being an Arctic Tern, turned out to be a young Common Tern, on being shot. Mr. Charles Pearson assures me he saw both species at the breeding-place during his visit.

LITTLE TERN.

Common in August; fewer in September, all had gone by the 24th. This species fed in the dykes in the polders, and closely followed up the tide as it crept up the channels

on the shore, the other Terns keeping further out in deeper water. Adult birds were in full moult at the end of August (body, wings, and tail), as were the adults of the other two species. Recorded as breeding (all authors); also "breeds on the other Dutch islands" (L.J.).

LITTLE GULL.

An immature and an adult seen on 25 September in the bay at De Cocksdorp.

BLACK-HEADED GULL.

Numerous during both visits and no migratory movements noted. Leege-Juist records four small colonies—the largest in reed-beds at Waterburg, the smallest at Nieuweschild on small reedy islets, one at the Mill at Oost on grass, and another at Oudeschild. It also breeds on Vlieland, but not on the other islands. "Breeds" (Th.).

COMMON GULL.

Very numerous in August on the polders and on the sand-banks, whither flocks from the interior of the island used to "flight" at dusk. The majority were birds of the year. In September this species was the commonest of the Gulls, and adults appeared to preponderate. According to Schlegel, there was formerly a small colony on Texel, but apparently it does not breed now on any of the Dutch islands, but does so on Sylt (L.J.). Recorded as breeding in Thijssse's list.

HERRING-GULL.

Abundant on the shore in August; in September fairly common, but scarce compared with the last species. "Breeds" (D. & Th.). "Single pairs breed in the dunes by De Cocksdorp: breeds on all the other Dutch islands in small numbers, except on Rottum where there is a large colony" (L.J.).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL.

It is curious that, although particularly looked for, this species was not met with on either visit. I do not think we overlooked it. Daalder says it is seldom seen on the Texel coast. This is strange, as it is a common breeding

species in the north, and being more migratory in its habits than any other of the gulls, one would expect to find it a regular autumn and spring migrant there, as is the case on the Suffolk coast.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL.

Nowhere have I seen congregated together such numbers of adults of this species as on the sand-banks of the Vlake van Kerken. There were several hundreds in one flock alone, and the sand-banks looked black and white with them. These banks are evidently favourite places for the adults to congregate during their moulting period. Immature birds were rather uncommon. After 21 September this species was not so much in evidence. Recorded as breeding by Thijsse, but by no one else of recent years.

RICHARDSON'S SKUA.

First noted on 24 September, after which odd birds were seen on several days, but they disappeared about the same time as the Sandwich Terns, their chief victims.

GUILLEMOT.

A single bird was noted on 2 October.

LITTLE GREBE.

A single bird was seen in one of the dykes on 28 September, but its haunts were not visited much. "Breeds on Texel, but on none of the other islands" (L.J.). "Occurs in the spring; breeding in 1913" (V.).

In addition to these records, the following species should be mentioned though not *positively* identified:—Corn-Bunting, one on 19 September; Little Ringed Plover, two on 21 September—a most likely species to occur; Gyr Falcon, a bird seen on 5 October, ascribed by Mr. Bonhote to this species. The Corn-Bunting has been recorded as breeding on Ameland, where, however, Leege-Juist did not meet with it. It is a scarce bird in North Holland. Two birds seen on 7 October were doubtfully ascribed by Mr. Bonhote to Richard's Pipit.